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JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

Aug 09 40,06,273 doses

Aug 10 37,26,765 doses

TOTAL DOSES 51,65,12,140

NATIONWIDE	AUG 9	AUG 10
Fresh cases	39,070	35,499
Recoveries	43,910	39,686
Deaths	491	447

KARNATAKA	AUG 9	AUG 10
Fresh cases	1,186	1,338
Recoveries	1,776	1,947
Deaths	24	31

CMC VELLORE TO STUDY MIXED USE OF COVISHIELD, COVAXIN

The Drug Controller General of India has cleared the proposal moved by the Christian Medical College, Vellore to this effect

COMBO SHOT GIVES BETTER IMMUNITY: ICMR

The development comes just two days after the ICMR released a yet-to-be peer reviewed study, which said mixing of the two vaccines seemed to elicit stronger immune response. The study, conducted by Pune-based National Institute of Virology under the ICMR, suggested that the combo shot was safer and provided better immunity against Covid virus variants

SAMPLE SIZE EXTREMELY SMALL

- The ICMR study was conducted on 98 people, including 18 who had inadvertently received Covaxin, followed by the first dose of Covishield in Uttar Pradesh
- The study showed the immunogenicity profile against alpha, beta and delta variants in heterologous group was superior

300

THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS TAKING PART IN THE STUDY BY CMC VELLORE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

HC nod must to let off lawmakers: SC

Makes it harder to duck criminal prosecution as withdrawal of cases will need high court vetting

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered that no prosecution against a Member of Parliament or an MLA shall be withdrawn without the permission of high courts monitoring the cases, thus circumscribing the powers of state governments.

After power changes hands, state governments often tend to invoke Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure that authorises a prosecutor to seek withdrawal of a criminal case against the accused.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana issued directions after various instances of the proposed withdrawal of cases against lawmakers of ruling parties in states were flagged by *amicus curiae* (friend of court) Vijay Hansaria when the bench was hearing the progress in speedy disposal of cases against them.

The bench, in its order, said, "The high courts are requested to examine the withdrawal of cases against MP/MLAs since 16 September, 2020, in reference to the Supreme Court judgment in State of Kerala versus K Ajith." Till now, it was the trial courts that took the final call on requests for withdrawal of cases.

Hansaria pointed out that in August 2020, the Karnataka government issuing instructions to withdraw 61 cases against MLAs. However, no further action could be taken as a HC order in a PIL stayed the operation of the notification. Uttarakhand sought withdrawal of prosecution against sitting MLA Rajkumar Thukral, accused in a murder case registered in 2012. It is still pending before the trial court.

UP chose to withdraw prosecution last year against Sadhvi Prachi and three sitting MLAs — Sangeet Som, Suresh Rana and Kapil Dev — for making inflammatory statements during the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots. In Maharashtra, the government decided to withdraw political cases against activists prior to December 31, 2019. CONTINUED ON: P10

NO TRANSFER OF TRIAL JUDGES

Trial judges hearing cases against MPs/MLAs shall continue to be at their post until further orders

Registrar generals of all HCs to submit chart of trial court judges hearing criminal cases against elected lawmakers, cases pending and cases disposed of by them

Parties pitch for caste census as OBC politics heats up, LS passes bill

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

THE Lok Sabha on Tuesday unanimously passed the 127th Constitution Amendment Bill, which seeks to restore the powers of states to make their own OBC lists.

Summing up the sense of the House, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar said the 50% quota ceiling needs careful legal and Constitutional examination, but did not elaborate. His remarks followed a day-long discussion, marked with the common refrain that caste census and breaching the ceiling is incumbent to ensure social justice.

The 127th Constitution amendment Bill was necessitated because of the BJP's social engineering overdrive as the Constitution (102) Amendment Act, 2018 had led to "unintended consequences" with states' backward commissions losing functional powers, leaving the saffron outfit in a spot over the Maratha reservation stir, after adverse judicial interpretations.

Next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, which is expected to set the tone for the national political mood, seems to have prompted the Centre to fast-track the OBC quota bill.

The BJP, though, laboriously kept blaming the Congress for keeping the data of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 under the carpet, which found mention in the speeches of the Union Minister Bhupender Yadav and the party's lead speaker of the day Sanghmitra Maurya, an MP from Badayun in Uttar Pradesh.

However, BJP leaders hinted that the Centre would prefer states to conduct their own censuses or surveys to draw their respective OBC lists. CONTINUED ON: P10

Bill gets 385 votes

The Bill was passed with 385 members voting in its favour and none opposing it. Some amendments moved by opposition members were rejected by the House

TALIBAN THREAT

India starts evacuating its citizens in Af

ENS @ New Delhi

ALL Indians in Afghanistan must return home immediately as commercial air services from the war-torn country may get discontinued, the Indian embassy in Kabul said on Tuesday. It also asked Indian companies to urgently withdraw employees from project sites and make their travel arrangements in view of the Taliban onslaught.

According to government data, there are around 1,500 Indian nationals in Afghanistan. On Tuesday, the Indian consulate at Mazar-e-Sharif tweeted that it was arranging a special flight to New Delhi evacuate Indians.

"Violence in many parts of Afghanistan has escalated, commercial air travel services to many cities are getting discontinued. All Indian nationals visiting, staying and working in Afghanistan are strongly advised to keep themselves updated on the availability of commercial flights and make immediate travel arrangements to return to India before commercial air services are discontinued to their place of stay," the Indian embassy advised.

KSE goes overboard, puts govt in spot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

EVEN before the new government has fully settled down to business, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister **KS Eshwarappa** put new Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the party in a tight spot by his controversial statement and objectionable remarks against opposition Congress leaders.

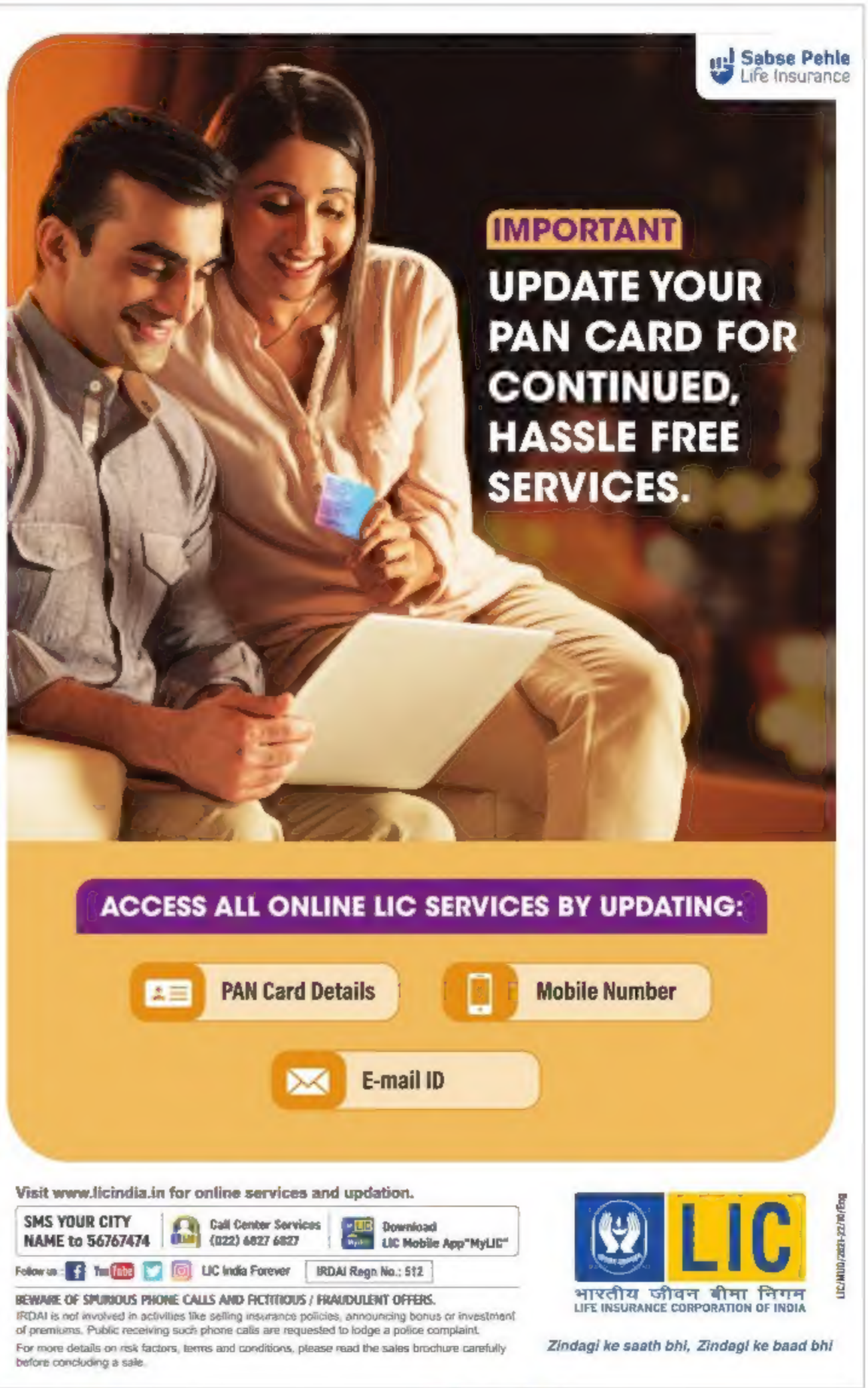
After courting controversy with his aggressive remarks on Sunday that if someone attacked BJP workers, they would face the same stick in double measure, the minister on Tuesday drew the Opposition ire again for doing an encore with an offensive retort quite unbecoming of a minister.

On a response to the media citing some Congress leaders' 'joker' jibe at him, a rather upset Eshwarappa referred to his opposition colleagues as 'sons of prostitutes'. Political rivals hitting each other below the belt is not new in state politics, but this was a new low. Upon realising he had crossed the Lakshman Rekha in public discourse, the minister withdrew his comment and requested the media not to play it up. P4

EXPRESS READ

5 dists in K'taka adding more Covid cases: Centre

BENGALURU: Five districts of the state are on the Centre's radar for contributing to an increase in the number of daily Covid cases. Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Uttara Kannada, Chamarajanagar and Udupi have been marked as 'Districts of Concern'. "Some of the states have localised districts that are reporting higher cases which is a concern," said Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry. P3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